

Message Text

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43

ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8074

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRIDGETOWN 2009

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OCON, OAS

SUBJ: USG POSITION AT QUITO

REF: STATE 252031

FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY INGERSOLL FROM CHARGE

1. THIS MORNING (NOVEMBER 19), IN COURSE OF CALL ON MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS PERMANENT SECRETARY A.N. FORDE TO DELIVER COPIES OF GVN DECLARATION OF NOVEMBER 7 AND SUPPORTING DEPARTMENT STATEMENT (REPORTED SEPTTEL), I TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE POINTS ON USG POSITION AT QUITO MEETING CONTAINED IN REFTTEL.

2. FORDE OBSERVED THAT, "SPEAKING PERSONALLY," HE DID NOT SEE HOW USG COULD "SIMPLY SIT ON SIDELINES" ON QUESTION OF CUBA. IN HIS VIEW, HE ADDED, IF NEW DIALOGUE IS TO BE BE FRUITFUL ALL STATES IN HEMISPHERE MUST TAKE PART. FURTHERMORE, IT SEEMED TO HIM USG POSITION ON RELATIONS WITH CUBA INCONSISTENT WITH POSITIONS ON RELATIONS WITH USSR AND CPR. HE CONCEDED, HOWEVER, THAT QUESTION WAS COMPLEX AND ALL ARGUMENTS "NOT ON ONE SIDE."

3. THIS MORNING'S ISSUE OF "ADVOCATE-NEWS" LONE BRIDGETOWN DAILY, ALSO DEALT WITH QUITO MEETING BUT, CURIOUSLY ENOUGH, MADE NO MENTION WHATSOEVER OF USG POSITION AT QUITO (POSSIBLY BECAUSE I RECENTLY WROTE LETTER TO "ADVOCATE NEWS" TAKING EXCEPTION TO AN EDITORIAL CRITICIZING US STAND ON SOUTH AFRICA, AND MANAGEMENT OF NEWSPAPER PREFERRED NOT TO RISK BEING TAKEN TO TASK AGAIN).

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EDITORIAL (PRESUMABLY WRITTEN BY MANAGING EDITOR ROBERT BEST)

DECLARED: "IT CAN BE SEEN THAT FAILURE TO OBTAIN THE TWO-THIRDS REQUIRED WAS NOT DUE TO ANY STRONG FEELINGS AGAINST CUBA BY A MAJORITY OF OAS MEMBERS." IT ALSO ACCUSED HAITI OF HAVING ABSTAINED ONLY BECAUSE COUNTRIES SUPPORTING LIFTING OF SANCTIONS REFUSED TO BUY HAITIAN VOTE BY PROMISING FINANCIAL AID. IN CONCLUSION, EDITORIAL PREDICTED: "IT MIGHT NOT BE NECESSARY FOR THE QUESTION OF SANCTIONS TO BE EVEN RAISED AGAIN. IF IT IS, THEN IT COULD BE A MERE FORMALITY. WITH 12 OAS NATIONS NOW FAVOURING CONTACTS WITH CUBA, IF THEY WILL GO AHEAD LIKE MEXICO AND TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, IT WILL ONLY TAKE A COUPLE FROM AMONG THE ASBSTAINERS TO SHOW THE SENSELESSNESS OF KEEPING CUBA OUT - THAT IS OFFICIALLY."
SIMMS

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